

Guajón Coquí *Eleutherodactylus cooki*



Distribution

Biological Information

Reproduction

The reproductive activity of the guajón increases in the rainy and hotter months during summer and fall and decreases in the cooler and drier winter months. The female coquí guajón typically lays an egg mass on the rock surfaces with an average of approximately 16 eggs. The male guajón provides parental care to the egg mass by keeping the eggs hydrated and protecting them from predators. One male guajón can provide care to multiple egg masses from different females. In approximately 20-29 days eggs hatch into tiny frogs, of 0.34 inch (8.7 mm) in length on average. This is the most critical life stage for these animals.

Habitat

The name guajón is derived from the typical rock formations of the species habitat known as “guajonales”. These are caves and cavities made of plutonic, granitic or sedimentary rocks. The species also lives in rocky stream banks covered with moss, ferns and other vegetation. “Guajonales” also usually occur along creeks or other natural water runoff areas.

Diet

The guajón coquí is an important primary consumer of invertebrates. They can eat a large variety of insects like cockroaches and crickets as well as other invertebrates such as spiders.

Distribution

The guajón frog is endemic to Puerto Rico and is restricted to the southeastern part of the island. Guajón populations are known to occur in the



Also Known As:

Puerto Rican Rock or Cave Frog
Puerto Rican Demon

Family: Leptodactylidae
Order: Anura

Description

The guajón coquí is the second largest *Eleutherodactylus* frog species in Puerto Rico, reaching body sizes of approximately 2-3 inches (5-7.6 cm) in length and females being larger than males. The guajón coquí is characterized by large bulging eyes and large truncate disks at the end of its long feet. The guajón has a solid brown coloration on the dorsal area. Females are uniformly white on the ventral area, and males have a yellow coloration on the ventral area extending from the vocal sac to the abdomen and flanks. The guajón coquí's voice is low and melodious, consisting on a series of 3 to 7 notes of the same type. Males will actively call during the late afternoon and night and to a lesser degree during daylight hours.

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following municipalities: San Lorenzo, Juncos, Las Piedras, Humacao, Yabucoa, Maunabo, Patillas. Populations are extremely limited in distribution within its habitat and only occur on privately-owned lands.

Threats

Deforestation and degradation of the guajón coquí's habitat is one of the mayor threats to the species. These include deforestation for rural and urban development, in addition to road and water reservoir constructions. Other threats include stream water pollution, erosion, pathogens and parasites.

Conservation Measures

The species was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1997. On 2007, the USFWS designated 17 critical habitat units within the species known range. The USFWS works closely with other federal agencies that permit, finance or conduct activities within designated critical habitat, looking for ways to avoid or minimize impacts to the species.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits the killing, harassing, trapping, purchasing or selling any species, as well as parts and products derived from the species.

References

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- Joglar, R. L. 1998. Los coquíes de Puerto Rico: Su historia natural y conservación. Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico. 232 pp.
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- Vega-Castillo, S.I. 2000. Habitat description and comparison of the Puerto Rican Demon or Guajón, (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*) at two localities on the eastern part of Puerto Rico. M.S. Thesis, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.

Additional Information

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Address: P.O. Box 491 Boquerón, PR 00622
Phone: 787-851-7297 / Fax: 787-787-7440
Website: www.fws.gov/caribbean



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